

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6353

WARSAW FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UR, US
SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH LIPAVSKIY, AUTHOR OF "OPEN LETTER" IN
IZVESTIYA ABOUT CIA INVOLVEMENT

BEGIN SUMMARY

SANYA LIPAVSKIY, AUTHOR OF THE "OPEN LETTER" IN IZVESTIYA
OF MARCH 4, SURFACED MAY 6 IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ATTENDED
BY UPI BUREAU CHIEF. HE WENT OVER DETAILS CONTAINED IN HIS
ORIGINAL STATEMENT, DISPLAYED MANY OF THE ALLEGEDLY CIA-PROVIDED
ARTICLES AND REVEALED THAT HE WAS FREE AND WAS NOT GOING
TO BE CHARGED WITH ANY CRIME. LIPAVSKIY'S STATEMENT SEEMED
AIMED PRIMARILY AT CSCE OBSERVATION GROUP AND CERTAIN OF MOSCOW'S
REFUSENIKS. ACCUSATIONS AGAINST FSO'S LEVITSKY AND PRESEL
SEEMED STRONGER THAN IN IZVESTIYA PIECE. END SUMMARY.

1. UPI BUREAU CHIEF GALLOWAY WAS INVITED TO
ATTEND A "TEA" AT UNION OF JOURNALISTS AFTERNOON OF
MAY 6. HE ARRIVED TO BE GREETED BY SEVERAL SENIOR
IZVESTIYA EDITORS. ONLY OTHER WESTERN CORRES-
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PONDENT PRESENT WAS ONE WEST GERMAN (KOLNISCHER
RUDSHAU AND AN ASIAN JOURNALIST. DEPUTY EDITOR OF
IZVESTIYA SAID THAT HIS PAPER HAD RECEIVED MANY
LETTERS FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE SOVIET UNION CONCERNING
THE ASSERTIONS IN LIPAVSKIY'S OPEN LETTER. SOME
WESTERN MEDIA HE SAID, INCLUDING TE VOA HAD EXPRESSED DOUBTS
ABOUT THE VERACITY OF LIPAVSKIY'S STORY AND IN SOME

CASES ABOUT HIS VERY EXISTENCE. LIPAVSKIY WAS THEN INTRODUCED AND TALKED IN RUSSIAN FOR 90 MINUTES.

2. AS RELATED TO US BY UPI BUREAU CHIEF, KIPAVSKIY'S STORY SEEMED VERY MUCH TO FOLLOW THE LINES OF THE ORIGINAL "OPEN LETTER" IN IZVESTIYA. IN HIS PRESENTATION THIS TIME, HE LAID PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CERTAIN MOSCOW DISSIDENTS AND THE CIA. HE CITED IN PARTICULAR THE ACTIVITIES OF VITALIY RUBIN AND YURIY ORLOV, THE FOUNDERS OF THE CSCE GROUP. THIS GROUP SOUGHT TO CREATE A "HULLABALOO" AT INSTIGATION OF ITS WESTERN MASTERS IN ORDER TO SECURE PUBLICITY FOR THE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR.

3. LIPAVSKIY RECOUNTED HOW HE HAD BEEN RECRUITED BY THE CIA BY FSO LEVITSKY IN 1975. HIS PRESENTATION THIS TIME SEEMED TO GO INTO GREATER DETAIL ABOUT THE ACTUAL RECRUITMENT PROCESS THAN WAS THE CASE IN THE IZVESTIYA PIECE. LIPAVSKIY ALSO SPENT MORE TIME TALKING ABOUT THE TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT USED THAN IN IZVESTIYA ARTICLES.

4. LIPAVSKIY WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHEN LEVITSKY LEFT THE USSR IN JULY 1975, PRESEL WAS INTRODUCED AS HIS REPLACEMENT. ACCORDING TO LIPAVSKIY, FROM HIS ARRIVAL, PRESEL WAS WIDELY ACQUAINTED IN DISSIDENT CIRCLES AND COLLECTED SECRET INFORMATION. LIPAVSKIY DESCRIBED PRESEL AS OPEN AND BRAVE. HE SAID THAT PRESEL ADMITTED THAT HE HAD BEEN SENT TO THE USSR TO WEAKEN THE SYSTEM AND ALSO ADMITTED THAT HE CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS A CIA AGENT. HE SAID THAT FEARED NOTHING, HOWEVER, BECAUSE HE HAD DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. PRESEL WAS HELPED BY HIS ASSISTANT ALYNN NATHANSON, WHO HELPED PRESEL REMEMBER DETAILS OF CONVERSATIONS WHEN HE HAD DRUNK TOO MUCH. NATHANSON ALSO SERVED AS A POSTMAN, USING THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH TO SEND DISSIDENT MAIL OUT OF THE USSR.

5. LIPAVSKIY SAID THAT WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT PETER ONOS WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN ILLICIT CORRESPONDENCE. AT THAT POINT, LIPAVSKIY STOPPED AND DISPLAYED THE EQUIPMENT HE HAD BEEN GIVEN BY HIS ALLEGED CIA CONTACTS.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, LIPAVSKIY SAID THAT HE WANTED THE JOURNALISTS TO KNOW THAT HIS CONFESSION WAS VOLUNTARY AND SINCERE. HIS ORIGINAL INVOLVEMENT WITH DISSIDENTS AROSE FROM HIS NAIVETE BUT AS HE GOT TO KNOW THEM BETTER, HE CHANGED HIS VIEWS. HE SAID THAT HE WORKED FOR THE CIA FROM FEBRUARY 1975 UNTIL THE TIME HE PUBLISHED HIS LETTER. HE SAID THAT HE WAS

TEMPORARILY NOT WORKING BUT WAS LIVING AT HOME.
THE IZVESTIYA DEPUTY EDITOR STATED THAT UNDER SOVIET
LAW, SOMEONE WHO MADE A VOLUNTARY CONFESSION COULD
BE RELIEVED OF LIABILITY AND
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRIMES WHICH HE HAD COMMITTED. THE
SUPREME SOVIET HAD GRANTED LIPAVSKIY CLEMENCY AND
HE WOULD NOT FACE TRIAL.

7. LIPAVSKIY INTIMATED THE "NATURALLY" NOT ALL
DISSIDENTS WERE IN THE PAY OF THE CIA. WHEN TOLD THAT
THE USG HAD DENIED THAT LEVITSKY AND PRESEL HAD
RECRUITED LIPAVSKIY, HE REPLIED THAT THE JOURNALISTS
SHOULD DRAW THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS. ASKED IF THERE WOULD
BE ESPIONAGE TRIALS BASED ON HIS REVELATIONS, LIPAVSKIY
WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE IZVESTIYA DEPUTY EDITOR WHO SAID
THAT THAT WAS A MATTER FOR THE COURTS.

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8. AS READ TO US BY THE UPI BUREAU CHIEF, LIPAVSKIY'S
PRESENTATION CAME DOWN HARDER ON THE CSCE GROUP AND
ITS MEMBERS THAN WAS THE CASE IN THE IZVESTIYA PIECE.
THE CRITICISM OF ORLOV, RUBIN, LERNER AND SHCHARANSKIY
ALSO SEEMED MORE POINTED.

9. UPI TELLS US THAT ENTIRE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS
VIDEO TAPED FOR LATER BROADCASTS. UPI IS FILING
DISPATCH BASED ON PRESS CONFERENCE AND WASHINGTON
POST CORRESPONDENTS OSNOS ALREADY KNOWS OF STORY.

10. PRESS GUIDANCE
EMBASSY WILL RESPOND TO PRESS QUERIES BY REFERRING
TO OUR PREVIOUS CHARACTERIZATION OF MARCH 4 IZVESTIYA
ARTICLES AS A CLASSICAL PIECE OF DISINFORMATION INTERLACED
WITH SLANDER AND INNUENDO AND AS SUCH UNWORTHY OF FURTHER
COMMENT. IF QUERIED RE PRESEL, WE WILL STATE THAT HE HAS
ENGAGED IN NO ACTIVITY INCOMPATIBLE WITH DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND
INTENDS TO CONTINUE HIS NORMAL DIPLOMATIC DUTIES.
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